



CATHEDRAL of SAINT PETER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Ready to Guide Children in Growth and Learning as New Year Gets Underway

The new school year is just around the corner, and with it comes the opportunity for continued growth and change. As a parish, it is important to know and be involved in what is going on at our school because that is where the youngest members of the parish are being formed.

“This year we will strive to get our students more involved in the surrounding Belleville community,” says Principal Linda Hobbs. “We want our students to become more in touch with downtown Belleville businesses because there are so many places and businesses that the kids can learn from. We also want our students to learn the importance of giving back to their community.”

Notre Dame Academy will continue to emphasize the Catholic faith with all the students. Students will attend



a religion class every day and Mass is offered on Fridays. The chapel within the school is also available to students during the day for quiet prayer time.

“We always want to instill the virtue of faith in our students,” Mrs. Hobbs says. “But this year we also want to emphasize charity, by getting our students involved in the community. We want everyone to be caring, kind, nice, and patient with each other. Other kids are going to do things, and we want our students to learn how to forgive.”

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Photography Ministry

Brings Life of Our Parish into Clear Focus for All

A photo can capture someone's attention in a way that words cannot. In a parish, these moments are numerous — it could be a reverent expression on someone's face at Mass, people's smiles at a fun parish event, or a child's wonder as they learn something new about their faith. Whether the moment is serious or playful, a photo can show visitors or new and old parishioners alike that this faith community is ready to welcome them and help them draw closer to Our Lord.

With all this in mind, Fr. Godfrey Mullen planted the seeds of the Photography Ministry last year.

"Attractive pictures make all the difference," Fr. Godfrey says. "I see the Photography Ministry as part of our effort toward evangelization — introducing others to Christ through our life of faith here at the Cathedral."

In the digital age, we need photos for our website, social media, bulletins, and newsletters. To fully capture parish life, we want photos from every event and any perspective. They don't need to be taken professionally — they only need to be clear and to capture a special moment.

The first member of the Photography Ministry was Liz Stock. Liz had experience with the Yearbook Club at school, making her the perfect candidate to start capturing candid moments throughout the parish. Even though the ministry is just getting off the ground, Liz can already see the impact it will have.

"I think it will help people to recognize all the activities that are starting to happen," Liz says. "I feel like this last year and moving forward will be a jumpstart to get people involved and interested. Photos will help people get some recognition for what they are doing, and connect faces to names."

Liz will be leaving for college in the fall, so more members are needed to step into this important role. All



Liz Stock was the first member of the Photography Ministry.

levels of experience are welcome. While a quality camera is a great tool, often photos taken on a good phone are just as useful.

A look back at our own church's history can show us just how valuable a photo can be.

"Many of us have seen an image of the church in ruins after the 1912 fire," Fr. Godfrey says. "The picture conveys so well the destruction of that day and the courage it took to rebuild. While not every image plays such a role, all of them contribute to the archiving of our parish history."

Vibrant photos that capture all the hard work that happens in our various ministries, the joy our parishioners bring to their worship, and the community that has grown here can all impact those who see them, whether shared on social media or mailed out in a newsletter.

"Photos can inspire people to come back to church and they can help people who do come to church," Liz says.

If you're interested in sharing your talent through the Photography Ministry and learning how this ministry will be growing, contact Carissa Reitano in the parish office at 618-234-1166.

A Letter from Our Cathedral Rector

Reflections on St. Augustine and a Life of Stewardship

Dear Parishioners,

This month, I want to reflect with you on the profound importance of St. Augustine of Hippo — whose feast day is Aug. 28 — in the life of the Catholic Church and how his life serves as a remarkable example of living stewardship as a way of life. St. Augustine's journey of conversion, his deep love for God, and his tireless dedication to the Church provide us with invaluable lessons on stewardship and discipleship.

Augustine's early life was characterized by a relentless search for meaning and fulfillment. Despite his intellectual brilliance, he found himself entangled in worldly pleasures and philosophies that left him spiritually unfulfilled. However, it was through the patient prayers and guidance of his mother, St. Monica, that Augustine encountered the transforming power of God's grace.

Augustine's conversion to Catholicism was not a mere change of affiliation, but a radical transformation of his entire being. His encounter with Christ touched the deepest recesses of his heart and compelled him to surrender his life completely to God. Augustine's conversion was a turning point that shaped his understanding of stewardship and led him to a life of profound discipleship.

Stewardship, as lived by St. Augustine, was grounded in his understanding that everything he possessed was a gift from God. He recognized that his intellect, talents, and resources were entrusted to him for a greater purpose. Augustine embraced the call to be a faithful steward, using his God-given gifts to serve the Church and promote the Kingdom of God.

As a bishop, theologian, and writer, St. Augustine dedicated his life to nourishing the faith of the faithful and defending the truths of the Catholic Church. His prolific writings, including *Confessions* and *The City of God*, continue



to inspire and guide Catholics across the ages. Augustine understood that his intellectual abilities were to be shared and employed for the glory of God.

As we reflect on the life of St. Augustine, we are reminded of the relevance and urgency of living stewardship in our own lives. Like Augustine, we are called to recognize that all we have is a gift from God, entrusted to us for a greater purpose. Our time, talent, and treasure are meant to be used wisely and selflessly for the service of others and the building up of the Church.

Stewardship invites us to discern how we can actively contribute to the mission of the Church. It encourages us to generously share our time and talents by engaging in prayer and ministries and supporting initiatives that promote the well-being of others. It also challenges us to make intentional choices in how we use our material resources, mindful of the needs of our parish community and those less fortunate.

During this month dedicated to St. Augustine, let us emulate his spirit of stewardship. May St. Augustine intercede for us and guide us as we deepen our commitment to living stewardship, and may his example inspire us to be faithful stewards of God's gifts, using them generously for the service of others and the advancement of the Kingdom of God.

Peace,

Fr Godfrey OSB

Very Rev. Godfrey Mullen, OSB
Cathedral Rector



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS Our Annual Stewardship

Once again, it's time for our Annual Stewardship Renewal. Every year, someone asks, as you may have asked yourself, "Didn't we just have a Stewardship Renewal? Aren't we sufficiently 'renewed' by now?" Yes, we had a Stewardship Renewal last year, and we're going to have one next year, too! This is an annual occurrence — part of the rhythm of parish life at the Cathedral of St. Peter. Just as the Church proposes a time of spiritual renewal each Lent, we believe in the importance of a yearly examination of commitment. Is the Lord asking you to give more time, talent, or treasure to our parish this year?

Commitment Weekend is August 26-27. Don't forget to bring your Commitment Card to Mass!

How do I use my Commitment Card?

Your Commitment Card allows you to make commitments to prayer, parish ministries, and offertory giving. It is designed to be used by the whole family.

- ***Time Section:*** Except for the ill and homebound, everyone should be able to check "Come to Mass on Sundays and Holy Days." Try to check at least a few other items. Daily prayer should be a priority for every person trying to grow closer to God.
- ***Talent Section:*** You can either sign up for new ministries or re-commit to your current ministries. Be sure to write your first name next to the ministry! This is especially important if the card is being used by more than one person.
- ***Treasure Section:*** Clearly print how much money you plan to give each week or month to our parish. Try to take a step toward giving five percent of your income to the Cathedral of St. Peter.

My age or physical limitations prevent me from being active in the parish. Should I still turn in a Commitment Card?

Yes! The first section of the card — Stewardship of Time — is the most important because it allows you to make commitments to *prayer*. Even if you can't join a ministry or make it to Mass on Sunday, you can still pray for our parish. Your spiritual support has tremendous value in the eyes of God.

One time I turned in a card, but no one ever called me when I signed up for a ministry.

If this happened in the past, please forgive us! And don't give up on filling out your Commitment Card! We have a very good plan to call every person interested in joining a new ministry. If for some reason the ministry leader does not call you within four weeks of turning in your card, let the parish office know.

How much should I give?

Your gift is entirely dependent on how much God has given you. At the Cathedral of St. Peter, we ask that you give five percent to our parish, one percent to the diocese, and four percent to other charities. Why a percentage of income? First, because the tithe (10 percent) is a scriptural benchmark that the Church has honored for centuries (see Malachi 3:10). Secondly, we give a percentage of income because it is a common-sense standard by which everyone can equitably support the parish. Most of all, we give because we believe God comes first in everything, even finances.

What if I can't fulfill my financial pledge?

While our pledge is not a "contract," we should all make a good-faith effort to fulfill it. Of course, if your financial circumstances change — if you lose your job, for instance — then the amount of money you give the Church will change, too. Likewise, if you get a raise or bonus. The biggest reason many people don't fulfill their pledge is that they attend Mass at another parish when they go on

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ANSWERS ABOUT Stewardship Renewal

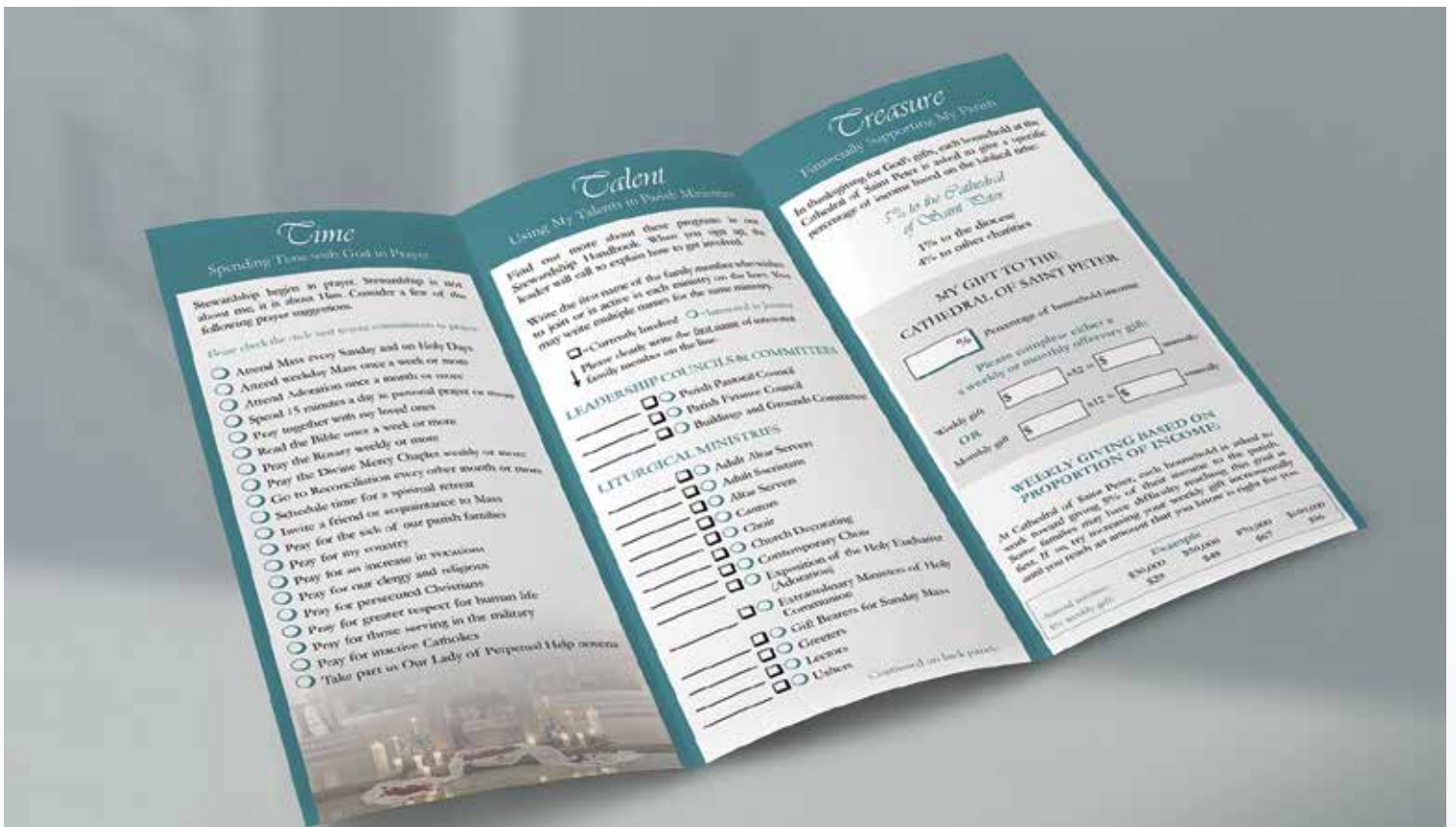
vacation, attend a wedding, etc. If you're out of town, just make up for the missed Sunday when you write your next check to the parish. Using your envelopes is a good way to see which Sundays you missed.

I don't even go to Mass very frequently. Why turn in a Commitment Card?

Because this is your chance to turn over a new leaf! Why not make a commitment to God to come to Mass every Sunday, and then write down that commitment? Even if that's the only commitment you make, take a step forward. Jesus Himself is waiting for you!

What happens if I don't return my Commitment Card?

We will mail you a reminder letter that includes an extra Commitment Card (in case you misplaced yours). Make every effort you can to participate. Our Stewardship Renewal is a very important annual event in the life of our parish. You and your family are part of what makes the Cathedral of St. Peter a great community! Most importantly, your commitments are actually promises to Christ Himself. All of us are called to give back to God a portion of what He has given us.



Every parish family receives a special "Stewardship Package" in the mail that further explains our parish's vision of stewardship. It includes a booklet that describes every ministry in the parish, as well as your Commitment Card.



Scouts BSA and Cub Scouts:

A Place for Our Young People to Grow as Leaders

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent. These are the 12 principles for Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA. Here at the Cathedral of St. Peter, we offer Cub Scouts for boys and girls in kindergarten to fifth grade, and Scouts BSA for boys and girls ages 10 ½ to 18 or having just finished fifth grade.

Kim Schwarzkopf leads the Cub Scouts Pack. She is a lifelong member of Girl Scouts, and her younger brother was an Eagle Scout. So, when her youngest child started kindergarten, it was only natural for her to continue the tradition with her family.



“What the kids learn in Cub Scouts are the building blocks for what they will learn in Scouts BSA and life,” Kim says.

In particular, Kim loves that as Cub Scouts move through the program, they become more and more independent. They learn valuable skills like first aid, pocketknife safety, and how to use various tools. They also get involved with service projects like a food drive, cemetery cleanup, and putting out flags for Veteran’s Day, which teaches them how to be good citizens.

“When the kids cross over to Scouts BSA, they will have developed the skills to take on leadership roles since Scouts BSA is scout-run,” Kim says.

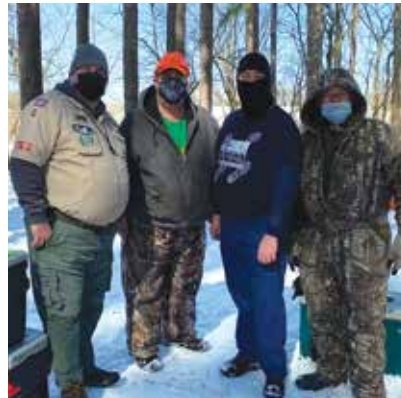
It’s nice to have both of these programs under the umbrella of the Cathedral because teaching the Catholic faith is an added component. Scouts also have an opportunity to earn specific Catholic badges.

“We encourage scouts to be faithful in their religious duties as well as to respect the beliefs of others,” Kim says.

Terry Grime leads the Scouts BSA, and girls were added to the program earlier this year. The group meets on Sunday nights and rotates through social night, skills night, Merit Badge night, and Patrol Leaders Council. They also go camping about once per month. The scouts primarily lead the program. The leaders take a back seat and supervise.

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*To get your child involved in Cub Scouts, contact Kim Schwarzkopf at 541-324-0584.
To get your child engaged in Scouts BSA, call Terry Grime at 618-791-1227.*



Scouts BSA and Cub Scouts

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“Leadership is the most important element,” Terry says. “This program gives young adults something to do besides being on screens. It gets them out and about, and they learn valuable things.”

Terry has been a member of the Boy Scouts or Scouts BSA for 43 years.

“It’s a good program,” he says. “I like to see the kids grow and excel — that’s why I still do it. It’s fun to take them in the woods and get them comfortable. They start doing things themselves instead of watching.”

The service project every year is helping put the flags in the cemetery for Memorial Day. Terry says this aligns wonderfully with the principle of reverence.

“Being reverent is part of the Scout Law,” he says. “There’s no better way to be reverent than to be

associated with a church and attend that church.”

Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA is open to all, Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

“Leadership is the most important element. This program gives young adults something to do besides being on screens. It gets them out and about, and they learn valuable things.”

— Terry Grime



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Notre Dame Academy

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As a parish school, Notre Dame Academy relies on the Cathedral and its parishioners for support. This support comes in terms of finances, as well as from volunteers and prayers. The school wants the parishioners to see and know what is going on, so they can understand what their support is doing and how it is helping to form the youth of the parish. There are multiple events held throughout the year in which parishioners can get involved. There are also beginning and end-of-the-year Masses at the church so the parishioners can see the children.

“We are excited about the upcoming year,” Mrs. Hobbs says. “We are really pumped about being able to reach out to new places that can help support our school. Our big push is to become more engrained in the society we live in.”

“We always want to instill the virtue of faith in our students. But this year we also want to emphasize charity, by getting our students involved in the community. We want everyone to be caring, kind, nice and patient with each other.”

— Linda Hobbs, Principal

If you have any questions or would like to get involved, contact Principal Linda Hobbs at linda.hobbs@notredamebelleville.org or 618-233-6414.

MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 p.m. | Sunday: 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 5:00 p.m.

Weekdays: Monday-Friday 6:45 a.m., Friday School Mass 8:15 a.m.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE (CONFESSIONS)

Monday through Friday: 7:15 a.m., Thursday: 6-7 p.m., Saturday: 3:00 p.m. until 3:45 p.m.